

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

November 14, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Smith.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Dave Janiuk, 83 Landgon Street, Manchester, NH (Re: treatment by City Welfare) stated:
The reason I'm here is that I applied for City Welfare after I broke my back in two locations. I'm unable to work and actually prior to that, back in '97, when most other people had the flu, I had a seizure disorder and several massive seizures. I was hospitalized for about a week, which affected my memory and then after that I had difficulty finding a job. I ended up starting my own small business and had a lot of difficulty running that, but I did the best I could and then back on August 23rd I fell off a ladder from about twenty-five feet and broke two vertebrae in my back. As I said, I'm unable to work so I went to City Welfare for help and they would not give me any help with rent or utilities. They basically referred me out to other agencies and that didn't...I applied for fuel assistance and that money's available in December. I got some bus passes. That was it. But it should be obvious to a first grader that I'm not able to work with a broken back and for some reason it wasn't obvious to them, and I wasn't treated very well and also I appealed the decision and in my hearing the denial was upheld and I've since then found some information about my seizures and memory problems and wanted to present that to the Welfare Commissioner with my Alderman Mr. Long. And

I haven't been able to see him to rectify it. And I'm facing eviction and I just really need help and I don't understand why I was turned down when it's so obvious that I need help. I'm only asking from the time I got hurt till the time I'm able to work full time or other assistance kicks in. I don't want to milk the system, believe me. I wouldn't go there if I didn't have to. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Guinta stated would you mind giving his contact information and we'll contact you tomorrow and see how we can help.

Deputy City Clerk Patricia Piecuch stated the Sierra Club. The Clerk will note that tonight also provided was a handout from the Sierra Club.

Louis Ramano and Sarah McNeil, Sierra Club members, 349 Maple St. #2, Manchester, NH introduced themselves.

Julia Destefano, Sierra Club, 349 Maple St. #2, Manchester, NH (Re: Cool Cities) stated: Honorable Board of Aldermen, Manchester Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign wishes to express its appreciation for your unanimous support of the United States Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Your acceptance of this proposal will enable Mayor Guinta to sign this critical agreement and for Manchester to move forward to develop an energy policy to reduce its carbon dioxide output. The Manchester "Cool Cities" campaign looks forward to Mayor Guinta's leadership and yours as well. We really appreciate your support. Thank you so much.

Joe Kelly Levasseur, 866 Elm St. Manchester, NH (Re: New Horizons shelter) stated: First I'd like to congratulate the Mayor and the Aldermen tonight on the approval of Tim Soucy as the department head for the City Health Department. Without question I've been a restaurateur in downtown for over twenty years now and I have personally dealt with Tim Soucy on a professional basis, and every time I've called him, he's answered his own phone, which is something you don't find very often in government. And the person who not only answers his own phone but listens, comes down, and takes note of whatever you have to say. That's not the purpose for me being here, actually. Interestingly, the first person who spoke said they had a problem with the Welfare Department. As an attorney I've represented individuals who have also come to see me based on issues that have come forward from the Welfare Department under Paul Martineau. One person who had broken his leg and fractured it in a lot of places could not walk, went to the Welfare Department and they gave him twenty-six bucks and said, have a nice weekend and that was all they gave him. And the fight that he had to go through to get money out of the Welfare Department was ridiculous. But what I'm really here for is I got a phone call again yesterday. I got a letter two days ago from two people that are sitting in the fourth row in the back. They are homeless people. They were staying at the New Horizons, at the shelter, and they've been kicked out of the shelter because they filed complaints. And I can easily just file an injunction and act like an

attorney and start going after people, but instead I think the best process that I found in the past with the Aldermen and the Mayor, and two Aldermen-at-Large, Alderman Lopez and Alderman O'Neil, who represent the whole city is that you listen to these people speak and that something gets done today. They have been booted out, they're on the street, and it's because they filed some complaints at the New Horizons. And I hope that you'll listen to them very carefully and that you'll take their names down, Mayor, and that something will be done to accommodate them as quickly as possible. I've spoken to them on the phone, I've read their letter, and they are people that need some help and I think the first process is that we should come here, talk to the Aldermen, who I know most of you are good people who really want to try and help the people of your City. And I haven't heard what they're going to say, but I can imagine it's going to be something that's going to be something you guys will want to reach out and help them. So I thought I would bring them here, introduce them to you, and then you would hear their stories and then hopefully something would get done. So I thank you for your indulgence.

Garrett Silvera, homeless stated: I was living at the shelter but I'm homeless now. I don't even have the shelter. I'm really here for other people. I sent you a letter, I sent you a letter, I sent the Governor and everyone down because they use three books. Now normally them people there, they're there to be punished for how they live their life and their choices and they just live for themselves. Never been useful. Their minds are being annihilated. But they're still people in the charge of whoever's in charge of them. That's how I look at it. I'm here to try to defend these people. In here there's three books and normally these people are afraid to sign anything because that's all they have. We've got about 89 signatures because they're so afraid of the intimidation and the fear that they're putting in them that they actually signed and I made sure they signed it themselves. But what I'm really here for too is all the theft. I was there in the winter and I watched it. I'm not a drug addict. I don't do drugs. I don't drink. And I could see. They were all like this. But I watched. Everything in there gets witnessed. You can't hide it. The theft that's going on in there you wouldn't believe. I said to one guy in front of the library, when's the last time you had beef? Hamburg? No, beef. I said, see you're going to faint. That's how long it's been. But they're logging it. They're taking everything out of there. One day 132 sodas, three banana boxes. I found out, I got my ways, I found out on that first box was three roasts. Twelve roasts come in, three went. I had to say to the cook, they even have the cook fibbing. They even got people cooking it, the weekend chef cooks it for them and they take it home. I got in here dates, times, everything. I'm waiting for a real investigation because these people...and I served notice. I'm the type person, I'll tell you how it is. There's no fear for me. I don't fear no one. You can club me, I don't care. I'll go to heaven. I fear God and God only. I went into there and I served them papers that I was going to serve papers on them to investigate the whole staff. They just fired one guy. They're all criminals in there. They should be hiring people that lived in there. So I'm waiting for someone that's really in this thing for a local investigation. One man was assaulted. I got the guy's records. All he does is assaults his wife. So now he doesn't have the fault of assaulting this old feeble man.

Now that man lost one year's worth of dinners, senior meal. This guy's doing mass punishments. It's unreal. One lady didn't want to walk down three stories to throw the sheets so she throws them down to the first floor. I don't blame her. She's an old lady. So he sees the sheets. He punishes all the men. They gotta sleep downstairs in one room. He's gonna punish them, because no one's going to leave sheets in there. So the next day sheets are in there again, so now they find out it's a lady that's throwing sheets because the doors are locked. There's no way the men can get upstairs. Next thing, mass punishments for all the ladies. The guy in there Rob Smith has to leave. He's not for humans. He's only there for his own self. He serves himself. He's got all the staff scared. They're so scared their little puny jobs, they do whatever he says. They're throwing out people. A guy had an operation on his foot, in a cast, in a crutch. The guy says, get off the medical bed. Get downstairs on the mat. So we all got woken up for that. The guy's in a daze. He's on medication. He's on the medical bed. He should be. Go downstairs, so he says, alright, alright. I'll do it. He thinks he means the next day. He came up two minutes later, hey get out! Get out or we're calling the police. The guy had to wobble downstairs and come to his senses and begged the guy and finally Rob Smith goes, Oh, I'm going to give you a break this time. Another guy, walking pneumonia – out. He had to sleep on some stairways in the springtime. Walking pneumonia. Wouldn't let him go get his medication. The guy finally had to... You gotta really check into that place and there are people there that will talk. They're scared, they're afraid but there are some names here. They even got guys lugging the meat for them. And I'm talking like the boxes of meat. All the investigators gotta do... They got bottled water. They keep that all down toward the loading dock which I call plunder alley. I also heard about the coats. People who were donating coats ain't donating because they were videotaping and sent to their main office. So them two people ain't there no more. I'm only saying this. All you good people got good intentions. I used to come to Manchester. I used to do all my donating and charitable works in Manchester when I was in Massachusetts. But the stuff that's going on in there is wrong. It's got to be stopped. They're harming people. They are harming people. They're just throwing them out. They lose their services. I'm going to have them arrested.

Mayor Guinta stated thank you very much. I did get a call late this afternoon from Mr. Lavesneur identifying, notifying our office of the issue, so we have started to look into it. We do have a contact person, a phone number that has been provided so we will contact that individual with the status. We'll give you a call.

Kimberly Tellis, homeless, stated: We have a Tier program at New Horizons. I got my bed taken from me, and I have a part time job so you need to be in by a certain time. When you're not on a Tier program in order to get back in if you work out late, in order to have your bed. I'm not kicked out. I can still go in there, but on the days I work I can't possibly go in because of the time I come in from work. I can't use the shelter except for my days off. I'm very sorry that did occur. I did make a complaint and this is why it did occur. It's retaliation. I know things have happened to other people too, so I'm very disappointed.

Glenn R.J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH)Re: communication breakdown) stated: Good evening Your Honor and Aldermen. A government breakdown is grinding solutions to our problems. The breakdown of communications is the most likely issue to solving most City problems. With politics aside, and power struggles as well, improved communications will resolve many of the City's ill-informed. And here's an example: Tonight's Traffic Committee. On the issue of parking meters, it showed a lack of communication. Some of our Aldermen weren't even aware that certain things had been passed. They had not been made aware of it. We need to do a better job in communicating. Corner intersection of Auburn and Chestnut Street. When the City visited a problem on that corner last fall, they decided to spend almost a \$150,000 to correct the problem. This is how they corrected it. There's a balance of \$904 in that account. But they never completed the project. But they claim it's been completed. They had to solve two problems: traffic and pedestrian walking. They solved the traffic problem. They spent thousands on a strobe light that cannot be used because they never informed the neighborhood. And that light was actually imbedding in our bedrooms at all hours of the night. That has been shut off. I still don't know why they needed it to begin with. They solved the traffic problem but they never solved the walking problem. When the Verizon Arena ends an event, hundreds, thousands at times, come out through the back doors to walk back to the inner city. You wouldn't build us a parking garage. You prefer we walk, but now we're not being allowed to walk. We're being halted by the cars and being verbally assaulted to get off the streets. One alderman told me that how we solve that problem is we put an officer in that corner. Excuse me? We have already overly spread our officers. If you spend a thousand dollars or so that's needed to put the walk lights in, it will solve the problem. What is the problem with this City? Why do we have to go back next year and revisit this intersection because the problem has not been resolved? Please do something about this. And there are other problems as well but I don't have the time you allow me to speak tonight. One of them is garbage, and I'll stop at that. When the City Ordinance says you can only take out your garbage the night before it is due to be picked up, it is the City's responsibility to pick it up. Three days later, you should not be giving a summons to a property owner because the City didn't pick it up. This is happening. This happened on the West Side. How can we fight crime when the City can't even follow its own Ordinance? Thank you.

Billy Dodd, Ward 7 (Re: quality of life) stated: Wow. Three minutes. Next to my beautiful wife Marie, my log house in Tennessee, three minutes. This is absolutely heaven. My little thing tonight is going to be on quality of life. The very first thing I want to touch on is officer safety in the City. Being a former police officer myself, with ten years of experience, I'm kind of amazed at the advertising that I see on the City buses. It's impossible to see inside in the daytime. Now I see a picture in the paper where the same type of advertising has been applied to the new shuttle bus from the airport. I think in the interest of homeland security, mainly officer security, somebody needs to look at that advertising. If an officer had to approach that bus in the daytime, no way you can tell what's going on inside. Hank

Thibault, you've always tried to get a dollar surcharge from the Civic Center for every person that goes in. I think with the attendance over there, you can probably get close to a million bucks now if you could somehow circumvent the way the bond issue was written. Too bad you can't do that. And I think with the way things are going in Manchester, I think you can attribute some of the Verizon incidents to the Civic Center, and the people that come in that you attract from outside the area, so I think the City needs to invest some legal time and somehow find out how to capture that dollar surcharge that Alderman Thibault wanted from the very beginning. And that would go a long way to beefing up the police department, any way they want. The other thing is Candia Road. I live over that way. The sign up there on Candia Road when you come off the highway: No trucks between 9:30 and 7:00 am. I believe there's a sign like that over on the West Side on Goffstown Backroad. And they did something out there. My question is, is it ever enforced? It says a three hundred dollar minimum fine. Maybe some of you other Aldermen have streets in your areas that have no trucks but I can sit up in the morning, being retired now...4:30, 5:10, 5:30, 6:05, 6:35. We haven't hit seven o'clock yet. And there's trucks going both ways. Noise from motorcycles and automobiles. Several RSA's on mufflers, 259:56; motorcycles 266:59. Haven't seen a thing in the paper all summer about any concentrated effort from the PD to cut down on that noise. It also goes to the little cars. They put the little JAP mufflers on the back and you can hear them three blocks away inside your house. And there's a thing in the motorcycle revisions on mufflers is that no person shall pass for purpose of inspection a bike that exceeds a certain decibel level. My question is, does the City even have a decibel meter and actively use it? Do the inspection stations use it? It's a question that should be answered.

Snow removal in the City. We're coming into that area right now. A lot of your streets over here, Merrimack, Middle, Bridge Street all the way up to Mammoth, on the south side of the street, no sun hits it. On the north side of the street it melts pretty good. I think that's a good place, any of those streets, to have buildings or where they don't hit the snow out from the parking spaces. You've got people that park halfway out in the road because the parking space is halfway covered up. That would be a good place to put your snow removal melting machine into operation. Jobin Drive. I'm amazed at Jobin Drive, the nice granite work they did with the curbing jetting out into the road. For what reason? I have to shake my head. I don't know. I've watched big rain storms. It doesn't do a thing to the water. It runs right back against the curb. All I can see is snow plows busting that stuff up. But it's funny, when you get down to the end of Jobin Drive, South Willow Street, right across the street you've got your Stop 'n Shop. But there's a sidewalk there that does stop. I almost whacked somebody in a little wheelchair with a yellow flag. If it hadn't been for that flag, I wouldn't have seen him. The sidewalk stops right there on South Willow Street, and anybody walking or especially somebody in a handicap scooter is shoved right out into the main drive coming into that shopping center. You might want to take a look at that. But I just think you need...Last thing, very last thing. The deicing system over at the airport. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that when you get the new bridge across the river, that's going to become Manchester International Airport. And to monkey around with a substandard deicing recycling, some type of a system they're going to use over there,

there shouldn't be any qualms about dumping stuff into the brook over there and what it does over there. You should install a system. If you can go out and run a shuttle bus, you should be able to install a system that's going to recycle the deicing stuff and use it all over again without ever dumping it into any creek whatsoever by any means. Just a couple quality of life issues here in the City. Hope you take a look at them. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez stated for clarification. In reference to the letter that I received on the allegations of the New Horizons, that letter has been sent to the Director and the Board of Directors over there for some type of reply, but if your office is going to take a lead on it, maybe what we need is to have a meeting with all parties concerned with our City Solicitor.

Mayor Guinta stated I would agree. Thank you very much.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Duval, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk